Application Number: 09/280,609   Docket: 6402

IN THE CLAIMS

1-10. (canceled)

11. (twice amended) In a computer network having at least one server connectable to at least one client, a method for creating technical configurations and electronically delivering order reports to at least one client, the method comprising:

(a) ~~interactively~~ eliciting ~~from a user on the at least one client~~ a desired subset of possible products having technical configurations <u>from a user on the client</u>;

(b) ~~in response to the user's desired subset of possible products having technical configurations,~~ downloading from the at least one server to the at least one client limited configuration information that is a subset of a full set of configuration information residing on the server and limited configuration programs that are a subset of a full configuration program residing on the server;

(c) ~~interactively eliciting from the user on the at least one client~~ <u>requesting</u> a desired technical configuration <u>from the user, wherein the viability of the desired technical configuration has been</u> ~~and~~ preliminarily ~~checking~~ <u>checked</u> at the ~~at least one~~ client ~~the viability of the desired technical configuration~~ using the limited configuration information and the limited configuration programs;

(d) ~~uploading~~ <u>receiving</u> the desired technical configuration from the ~~at least one~~ client ~~to the at least one server~~ and performing a full check on the viability of the desired technical configuration using <u>the</u> full <u>set of</u> configuration information and the full <u>set of</u> configuration programs ~~on the at least one server~~; and

(e) ~~responsive to the full check,~~ preparing and outputting ~~on the at least one client~~ an electronic order report.

12. (original) The method of claim 11 further comprising using a TCP/IP connection to pass an HTTP request from the client to the server.

13. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the limited configuration information comprises limited option attributes and limited option rules.

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14. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the limited configuration programs comprise an HTML page and client-side programs.

15. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the client-side programs comprise a plug-in or helper-application.

16. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the client-side programs include one or more programs selected from Java, JavaScript, ActiveX, and Helper-Viewer.

17. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the client-side programs are cached on the client.

18. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein the client-side programs are cached in client-side memory.

19. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein the client-side programs are cached on client-side disk storage.

20. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the act of performing a full check comprises executing a CGI script on the server.

21. (amended) The method of claim 11 further comprising: (f) in response to the act of performing a full check on the viability of the desired technical configuration on the at least one server, allocating and downloading to the at least one client additional limited configuration information; and (g) receiving from the at least one client a second desired technical configuration developed from client processing of the additional limited configuration information.

22. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the act of interactively eliciting and electronically receiving further comprises enabling the user to specify whether an exact match or a loose match is desired between the desired technical configuration and a viable configuration.

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23. (original)   The method of claim 11 wherein the act of interactively eliciting and electronically receiving on the client further comprises using templates of pre-configured information.

24-40. (canceled)

41. (new)   The method of claim 11 wherein the eliciting step includes requesting at least one of the group consisting of: a vehicle make, a vehicle model, and a vehicle series.

42. (new)   The method of claim 41 wherein the desired technical configuration is a vehicle configuration.

43. (new)   A method for generating an order for a vehicle on a network-based computer system including a server and a client, the server including a full configuration engine including a full set of option attributes and a full set of option rules relating to each of a plurality of vehicles, the method comprising:

       receiving an identification of a desired vehicle from the client;

       transmitting a limited configuration engine to the client, the limited engine corresponding to the desired vehicle and the limited engine including a limited set of option rules;

       receiving a vehicle configuration from the client, wherein the client has performed a preliminary viability check of the vehicle configuration, using the limited set of option rules;

       performing a final viability check of the vehicle configuration using the full set of option rules; and

       sending an order report summarizing the vehicle configuration to the client.

44. (new)   The method of claim 43 further comprising transmitting an updated limited configuration engine to the client, where the vehicle configuration failed to pass the final viability check.

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45. (new)   The method of claim 44 further comprising receiving a second vehicle configuration, wherein the client has performed a second viability check of the second vehicle configuration, using the updated limited configuration engine.

46. (new)   The method of claim 43 wherein the receiving an identification of the desired vehicle comprises:

    receiving a vehicle make from the client;

    sending a set of vehicle models to the client, the vehicle models corresponding to the

        vehicle make; and

    receiving a vehicle model from the client, the vehicle model chosen from the set of

        vehicle models.

47. (new)   The method of claim 43 wherein the limited configuration engine includes an HTML web page and client-side programs.

48. (new)   The method of claim 47 wherein the client-side programs include a plug-in or helper-application.

49. (original)   The method of claim 47 wherein the client-side programs include one or more programs selected from the group consisting of: Java, JavaScript, ActiveX, and Helper-Viewer.